

REMARKS

Claims 24-26 and 28-34 are pending in this application, of which claims 24 and 34 are independent. Claims 35-44 are new and fully supported by the original specification.

Claims 24-26 and 28-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,836,123 to Grinde (Grinde) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,007,387 to Rustecki (Rustecki). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and request reconsideration in light of the above amendment and the following remarks. As amended, claim 24 now positively recites a marine electrical power generator mounted inside a boat hull including an exhaust system having an exhaust riser extending to above a water line of the hull and a transportable frame defining mounting points securing the generator inside the boat hull, upon which the engine and alternator are mounted.

Neither Grinde nor Rustecki, alone or in combination, teach an electric power generator mounted inside a boat hull including an exhaust system having an exhaust riser extending to above a water line of the hull, in combination with the other recited features of claim 24. Although Grinde states that "it is sometimes possible to locate the motor/generator set within the hull in the bilge area of these smaller marine craft," (col. 1, lines 41-43), the reference does not provide a disclosure of how to locate an electrical power generator within the boat hull, and particularly, fails to disclose or even suggest the features of the exhaust system as now recited in amended claim 1.

Moreover, no motivation is provided to modify the teachings of Grinde, alone or in combination with Rustecki, to obtain marine power generator including a water-cooled engine with a vertically-oriented drive shaft together with the recited features of the exhaust system. The claimed combination satisfies the stringent spatial limitations imposed by watercraft and permits the use of commercially available, water-cooled engines and engine components from

vertically shafted, outboard marine motors. Further, as the recited features of the marine electrical power generator provide an overall package of reduced height with particular advantages in below-deck applications, the exhaust system is configured to reduce the catastrophic possibility of sea water ingestion into the water-cooled engine in the claimed configuration. Applicants submit that independent claim 34 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 24.

Applicants further submit that the combination of references cited fails to teach or even suggest all of the features recited in the claims depending from claim 24, such as the seawater pump mounted on another end of the engine drive shaft as recited in claim 30, for example. Applicants note that new claim 35 recites all the feature of original claim 1, together with the features relating to the exhaust system as recited in claim 24. Applicants submit that claim 35 and new claims 36-44 depending therefrom are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 24.

Enclosed is a \$490 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing docket number 00637-031001.

Respectfully submitted,

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